

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a first memory for storing image data;
a second memory for storing image forming conditions;
an image output unit for outputting the image data stored
in the first memory under the image forming conditions stored
in the second memory;
command means for generating a command of discarding the
image data being output from the image output unit; and
a controller for discarding the image data stored in the
first memory when the command of discarding the image data is
generated by the command means, while maintaining the
associated image forming conditions stored in the second
memory.

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2. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 1,
further comprising an image input unit for inputting the image
data to the first memory.

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3. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 2,
further comprising an output control means for causing the
output unit to output image data newly input from the image
input unit under the maintained image forming conditions.

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4. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 3,
further comprising changing means for changing the maintained
image forming conditions.

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5. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 3,
wherein the first memory stores a plurality of image data, and
the output control means gives priority to the newly inputted
image data to be output under the maintained image forming
conditions over the rest of the image data.

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6. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 2,
wherein the image input unit is an image reader for reading
the image from the original and acquiring the image data, and
wherein the image output unit and the image reader operate
independently.

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7. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 6,
wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the
command means generates a command of suspending the reading
operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of
discarding the image data being output.

8. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 6,
wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the
command means generates a command of discarding the image data
being output after the reading operation for another original

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has been completed.

9. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the image output unit is a printer for printing an image on a paper based on the image data.

10. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image reader for reading an original and acquiring image data of the original;

an image memory for storing the image data acquired by the image reader;

a mode memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired image data;

a printer for printing an image on a paper, based on the image data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the mode memory;

command means for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed by the printer;

a controller for discarding the image data stored in the image memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command means, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the mode memory; and

print control means for causing the printer to print another image data newly read by the image reader under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode memory.

11. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising changing means for changing the maintained image forming conditions.

12. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the image reader and the printer operate independently, and the image memory stores image data for a plurality of jobs.

13. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the print control means gives priority to a new job for printing under the maintained forming conditions over the rest of the jobs on a waiting list.

14. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data being output.

15. The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of discarding the image data being output after the reading operation for another original has been completed.

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16. An image forming method, comprising the steps of:
storing image data in an image memory;
storing image forming conditions for the image data in
a memory;

outputting an image on a paper, based on the image data
stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions
stored in the memory;

generating a command of discarding the image data whose
image is being output;

erasing the image data from the image memory in response
to the command, while maintaining the associated image forming
conditions in the memory;

acquiring new image data and storing the new image data
in the image memory; and

outputting an image on a paper, based on the newly
acquired image data, under the image forming conditions
maintained in the memory.

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17. The image forming method as recited in claim 16,
~~further comprising the step of changing the maintained image~~
forming conditions.

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18. The image forming method as recited in claim 16,
further comprising the step of outputting image data of
another print job on a waiting list after the newly acquired
image data has completely been output.

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